

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2076

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DEPT PASS TO NASA AND USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: SITE - MORE INDIAN PRESS WORRIES ABOUT GOI'S READINESS
TO USE NASA'S TELEVISION SATELLITE ON SCHEDULE

REF: NEW DELHI 7686

1. APROPOS REFTEL AND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S LETTER TO NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER, THE INDIAN EXPRESS OF JUNE 13, UNDER HEADLINE "BROADCAST VIA SATELLITE LIKELY TO BE DELAYED," DESCRIBES TWO SOURCES OF POTENTIAL DELAY IN INDIA'S READINESS TO USE SITE ON SCHEDULE.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS NEWS REPORT COMPLETION OF THE HYDERABAD AND CUTTACK STUDIOS (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 15) HAS BEEN DELAYED BY CONTRACT CHANGES, THE RAIL STRIKE AND LAGGING DELIVERY OF AIR-CONDITIONING PLANTS. WHILE THESE TWO CENTERS HAVE NEVERTHELESS PRODUCED SIX HOURS OF TEST PROGRAMS AND THEIR STAFFS ARE IN READINESS, REGULAR PRODUCTION SCHEDULED TO START IN AUGUST IS LIKELY TO BE DELAYED.

3. A SECOND KIND OF DELAY, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, HAS ARISEN IN SELECTING THE VILLAGES TO RECEIVE SITE. LISTS FOR ONLY TWO

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DISTRICTS IN RAJASTHAN HAVE SO FAR BEEN PREPARED. THIS IN

TURN IS HOLDING UP SELECTION OF TEACHERS TO BE TRAINED IN USING SITE. THIS TRAINING IS SET TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER. THE PROBLEM IS INADEQUATE DATA ON THE VILLAGES FRM AMONG WHICH THE 2400 SITE VILLAGES IN SIX STATES ARE TO BE SELECTED. IT HAS BEEN FOUND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A VILLAGE LISTED AS "ELECTRIFIED" OFTEN HAS CURRENT CONNECTED ONLY TO ITS TUBE WELL. IT WOULD THUS TAKE EXTRA TIME AND MONEY TO RUN ELECTRICITY TO THE VILLAGE SCHOOL, WHERE THE SITE TELEVISION RECEIVER IS TO BE LOCATED. MOYNIHAN

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